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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/693,975 | 10/28/2003 | Hideki Tanaka | 244713US3 | 5781 |

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| EXAMINER |
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BAREFORD, KATHERINE A

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1762

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/693,975

Applicant(s)

TANAKA, HIDEKI

Examiner

Katherine A. Bareford

Art Unit

1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10/28/03 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2, lines 3-4; claim 4, line 3; and claim 6, lines 3-4, "the two end portions" lack antecedent basis, and are unclear as to what is required by "end" of the web. It appears that applicant intends to mean the side edges of the web in a direction transverse to the moving direction of the web, rather than the starting and ending ends of the web in the moving direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan 2000-197843 (hereinafter '843) in view of Kedl et al (US 5522785).

Claims 1-4: '843 teaches a method and apparatus for coating a moving web. Abstract and figures 1-3. The web is continuously transported through a plurality of guide members. Abstract and figures 1-3. The guide members include rolls in a transport path of the web. Abstract and figures 1-3 (see rolls 2, 4). The web is deformed in a second zone that can be located downstream of a guide roll. Abstract and figures 1-3 (edge lifter 5 deforms in the web by lifting in a zone downstream of guide roll 2, for example). The deforming can be by lifting up the two end portions of the web, thus decreasing the width of the web. Abstract, figure 2 and paragraph [0021].

Claims 5-7: when performing the method of claims 1-2 above, a guide roll can be placed downstream of a first zone in which coating is performed. Figures 1 and 3 and abstract (guide roll 4). The web can further be deformed downstream of the coating zone in a second zone located within 200 mm of the coating point. Figure 3 and abstract (see 5c). The deforming can be by lifting up the two end portions of the web, thus decreasing the width of the web. Abstract, figure 2 and paragraph [0021]. The coating is performed by an extrusion coating device. Figures 1-3, abstract and paragraph [0019].

'843 teaches all the features of these claims except (1) using a crown roller guide member to remove wrinkles in the web, (2) that deforming the web in the second zone removes wrinkles in the first zone as claimed and (3) that when coating, to locate the guide roller downstream of the coating point and the deformer downstream of the guide roller (claims 5-7).

However, Kedl teaches a method and apparatus for guiding webs using a roller assembly. Column 1, lines 5-10 and column 2, lines 35-50 and figure 4. The guide roller assembly can

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have a crown shape such that the diameter of the roller is gradually increased towards the center of the roller. Figure 3D and column 4, lines 45-55. The roller is shaped so as to reduce wrinkles in the moving web. Column 3, lines 10-25.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify '843 to use a crown shaped guiding roller as suggested by Kedl in order to provide a smooth web with undesirable wrinkles removed, because '843 teaches a coating method and apparatus where a web is guided with guide rolls and it is desired to coat with a uniform thickness, and Kedl teaches that it is desirable to use shaped guide rolls, such as with a crown shape, to transport webs so as to remove undesirable wrinkles. As these wrinkles would affect the uniformity of the applied coating, the use of these rollers in the process of '843 would help provide a uniform coating on the entire web. It would further have been obvious that when performing the process of '843 in view of Kedl (deforming the web in the second zone as provided by '843 when using the crown roller as provided by Kedl), wrinkles in the first zone would be removed as claimed because as worded in the claims, the deforming of the web in the second zone downstream of the crown roller is all that is required to result in the claimed wrinkle removal. As to the location of the crown shaped guide roller downstream the coating zone and deforming edge lifter downstream the crown shaped guide roller (as required by claims 5-7), it would have been obvious to located the devices as claimed with an expectation of desirable coating results, because the edge lifter 5 can be located up to 200 mm downstream of the coating die (abstract) and the rolls 4 can be located 100 mm downstream of the coating die (paragraph [0026]), thus indicating

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that the edge lifter 5 can actually be located downstream of guide roll 4 with an expectation of desirable coating results.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine A. Bareford whose telephone number is (571) 272-1413. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(6:30-4:00) with the First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive P. Beck can be reached on (571) 272-1415. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Other inquiries can be directed to the Tech Center 1700 telephone number at (571) 272-1700.

Furthermore, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


KATHERINE BAREFORD
PRIMARY EXAMINER